

**TOPIC: STATEWIDE ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS**

**PREPARED BY: DR. CHERYL LOVELL**

**I. SUMMARY**

This agenda item recommends two statewide articulation agreements for approval by the Commission: one in Business and one in Economics.

**II. BACKGROUND**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) has the authority to establish and enforce statewide degree transfer agreements between two-year and four-year state institutions. According to legislation passed and signed into law in 2010 (HB 10-1208), the CCHE shall establish statewide degree transfer agreements between two- and four -year state institutions. The new statute also requires that at least 14 statewide articulation agreements be established by July 1, 2016. Further, according to C.R.S. 23-1-108 (7) (a), the Commission shall consult with the governing boards or institutions in the process of establishing the statewide articulation agreements.

An articulation agreement is an officially approved agreement that matches coursework between schools. The articulation agreement represents a course of study leading to a degree in an academic major that will allow a student to begin at one institution, typically a community college, and subsequently matriculate into the bachelor's degree granting institution. These agreements are designed to help students make a smooth transition when transferring from a two year institution to a four-year institution. The operational importance to students is that the agreement assures them of successful completion of the major if they follow the prescribed curriculum. Additionally, the articulation agreements serve as an important academic advising tool for students, faculty, and administrators whereby all involved are aware of the courses that will allow successful completion.

**III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Department staff has worked extensively with the GE 25 Council and governing board and institutional representatives in developing the attached two articulation agreements in Business and in Economics. Over the last two years, members of the GE Council have met monthly to discuss potential statewide articulation agreements and identified several key degree majors that seem likely and appropriate for statewide transfer agreements. Faculty representatives have been involved in these monthly discussions and also have contributed to the discussion through the biannual Faculty-to-Faculty conferences held each fall and spring terms.

The Chief Academic Officer and campus President/Chancellor of each public institution in the state has provided an electronic signature to the Department (with hard copy signatures to follow). The signatures on these statewide articulation agreements represent, at a minimum, a commitment by institutions to accept these classes toward a bachelor's degree assuming successful completion of the prescribed curriculum by the student.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**That the CCHE approve the statewide articulation agreements in Business and in Economics presented as attachments.**

#### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

23-1-108. (7) (a). Duties and powers of the commission with regard to system-wide planning.

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